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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Points for Prize Winning Garden"...Information from Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Does your victory garden measure up to contest winning standards?

That depends on what the standards are, of course, and Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture have outlined some points most judges go by in picking the prize winning plots.

First...there's general appearance. Neat. The rows ought to lie evenly. The poles and stakes...stand fairly uniformly. Plants should be correctly spaced, not crowded nor too far apart.

Next, arrangement. Is the plot laid out so tall plants like pole beans and corn do not shade the smaller vegetables? Are later crops planted where the earlier ones have finished bearing?

Third...selection of vegetables. The different types in a garden should provide a high degree of food value...and the varieties chosen...yield over a long period of time.

Then there's pest control. Gardeners can't keep out insects and plant diseases entirely, but they can check their ravages by using disease-resistant varieties and by dusting and spraying. A garden should show results of pest control work.

Finally, judges take cultural practices into consideration. Tomatoes, if staked, should be staked according to Mr. Hoyle...the way of the experts. Vegetables now in harvest should be yielding abundantly. And of course, blue ribbon gardeners keep weeds down and out.

So most score cards include these five major points...appearance, arrangement, selection, pest control and cultural practices. If you can check down the list with a yes...you're pretty certain yours is a top flight garden.

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